

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Patent Office for the careful attention accorded this Application and respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the Amendment above and remarks set forth below.

In response to the Office Action mailed November 29, 2006, Applicants have amended Claims 97-100 in order to more clearly define over the prior art of record and avoid any basis for rejection under 35 USC Section 112.

The present invention defined by the amended claims is directed to an automatically activated laser scanning 2-D bar code symbol reading system, having a hand-supportable housing, supporting an automatically-activated laser scanning 2-D bar code symbol reading mechanism.

As claimed, the bar code reading mechanism includes a linear scanning mechanism for supporting the following automatically-activated laser scanning 2-D operations:

- (i) producing, during its bar code reading mode of operation, a visible linear-type laser scanning pattern for scanning a 2-D bar code symbol structure on an object as the hand-supportable housing is manually transported past the 2-D bar code symbol along a height-wise direction by an operator;
- (ii) capturing lines of scan data from said scanned 2-D bar code symbol structure;
- (ii) buffering the lines of scan data in buffer memory;
- (iv) decode processing the buffered lines of scan data; and
- (v) generating a symbol character data string representative of the read 2-D bar code symbol.

As claimed, the automatically-activated laser scanning 2-D bar code symbol reading mechanism also includes:

(a) a bar code symbol data detector for automatically detecting each line of the 2-D bar code symbol during the bar code reading mode of operation, and automatically producing a line of scan data for buffering in the buffer memory: and

(b) an audible data capture buffering indicator, responsive to the bar code symbol data detector, for automatically generating an audible feedback signal to the operator as each line of scan data is captured and buffered in the buffer memory as to indicate to the operator that lines of scan data are being produced and buffered in the buffer memory as the operator manually transports the hand-supportable housing past the 2-D bar code symbol along its height-wise direction, and for the audible feedback signal to cease when all lines of scan data associated with the 2-D bar code symbol have been collected and buffered in the buffer memory.

When the lines of scan data from the scanned 2-D code symbol are buffered in the buffer memory, the audible feedback signal ceases, and thereafter, the decoder processor automatically decode processes the entire set of scan data collected in the buffer memory corresponding to the scanned 2-D bar code symbol, and generates a symbol character data string representative of the read 2-D bar code symbol.

By virtue of the present invention, the audible feedback signal generated by the audible data capture buffering indicator, in cooperation with the bar code symbol data detector, assists the user to more easily and reliably scan 2-D bar code symbols (e.g. PDF etc) using an automatically generated (linear) 1-D scanning beam that is manually swept along the height-wise direction of the 2-D bar code symbol.

US Patent No. 5,256,865 to Wike, Jr. et al and US Patent No. 6,415,982 to Bridgelall et al, alone or in combination, clearly fail to disclose, teach or suggest such innovative features of the claimed invention.

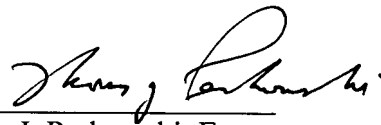
In the prior art references of record, there is simply no disclose, teaching or suggestion of generating an audible feedback signal to the operator as each line of scan data is captured and buffered in the buffer memory as to indicate to the operator that lines of scan data are being produced and buffered in the buffer memory as the operator manually transports the hand-

supportable housing past the 2-D bar code symbol along its height-wise direction, and then for the audible feedback signal to cease when all lines of scan data have been collected and buffered in buffer memory, as claimed.

In view therefore, of the Amendment and Remarks set forth above, the present invention defined by amended Claims 97-100 is firmly believed to be neither anticipated by, nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art of record, and that the present application is now in condition for allowance.

Favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



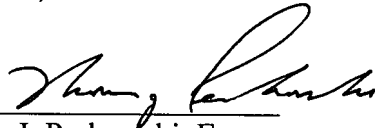
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